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DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 6 has been amended to depend on Claim 1.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-15 remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claims 1-6 and 10-15 as anticipated by U.S. 2005/0095770 A1 (Kumangi et al); and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 6 and 12-15 as unpatentable over Kumangi et al in view of U.S. 6,475,902 (Hausmann et al), and Claims 7-11 as unpatentable over Kumangi et al, are respectfully traversed.

The underlying application published as <u>Kumangi et al</u> entered the national stage on July 12, 2004. In addition, the earliest publication of the subject matter disclosed in <u>Kumangi et al</u> was that in JP 2003-282566, published October 3, 2003. Thus, the earliest prior art date of the subject matter of <u>Kumangi et al</u> is October 3, 2003. **Submitted herewith** is a certified English translation of Applicants' Japanese priority application, i.e., Japan 2003-016659, filed June 24, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner find that the priority application supports present Claim 1, the sole remaining independent claim. With <u>Kumangi et al</u> eliminated as prior art, <u>Hausmann et al</u> alone neither discloses nor suggests the presently-claimed invention, because <u>Hausmann et al</u> neither discloses nor suggests the combination of hexaethylaminodisilane gas and ammonia gas used in combination with a CVD method for forming a silicon nitride film on a target substrate.

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Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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